

known as "Gabby," was admired and respected by those who knew and worked with him. He is remembered for his devotion to family, faith, willingness to lend a helping hand, and his sense of humor.

Both are missed every day by family, friends, fellow officers, and citizens of the community. Both are remembered as mentors and role models. The courage, honor and valor exemplified by Detective Armel and MPO Garbarino serve as a reminder for us to remember, celebrate and thank police officers and first responders for their dedication and service to the community and our Nation.

SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I rise today in support of Taiwan's inclusion in the World Health Organization (WHO).

Taiwan has one of the most developed health care systems in the world and has a strong, proven record on controlling infectious diseases. It was the first Asian State to eliminate polio and has successfully eradicated smallpox, rabies and malaria.

Because our world is increasingly interconnected, exclusion of Taiwan from the international community is neither logical nor appropriate. Every year, travelers make over forty million international trips through Taiwan. With the rapid spread of diseases, one vulnerable site constitutes a vulnerability for us all; one weak link in the international health front puts at risk all our efforts.

Madam Speaker, the WHO has excluded Taiwan because Communist China claims that its health care system will protect Taiwan. Past experience has convinced me that this is not the case. When an earthquake struck Taiwan in 1999, Communist China refused to allow assistance teams to fly through its airspace. This unreasonable restriction cost these assistance teams hours of flying time and may have cost lives. During the SARS outbreak in 2003, Communist China took days to report the Taiwan cases, which also cost lives.

For these and other reasons I rise in full support of Taiwan's application to be included in the World Health Organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 7, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed roll call votes Nos. 302, 303, and 304. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

TRIBUTE TO GAY CHIONSINI

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gay Chionsini, a unique and caring friend that I personally had the pleasure of working with in the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce. Gay enjoyed a wonderful career with the Chamber and after nearly three decades of outstanding service decided to retire on April 30, 2007. Gay ended her career much the same way she started, as the face of the organization to all of its members and the community at-large. Like many others who have contributed to our community-based organizations and chambers all over Texas, Gay built strong relationships and a wealth of goodwill in and outside of the Beaumont business community. Gay's hard work, wisdom and dedication were critical in the day to day operation of the chamber and the achievement of its future goals.

Gay has had a distinguished 28 year career working for the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce and during that time served as the membership sales director, projects manager, office manager, executive secretary to the president, assistant to the director of public affairs, and secretary to the director of transportation. Gay and I had the pleasure of working together in the 1980's and I can tell you from first hand experience Gay was the consummate team player and I can not think of a better ambassador to the Beaumont community than Gay Chionsini.

It is with deep respect and admiration that I commend Gay Chionsini for her 28 years of service to the Beaumont area, and wish her and her family the very best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTER FOR WORK EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Center for Work Education and Employment on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

This Denver-based Center has helped thousands of severely disadvantaged adults prepare for, maintain, and retain employment.

For 25 years, the Center's volunteers and employees have provided a full-time job readiness program, evening computer classes, and preparation for General Education Development tests for residents of the Denver area living below the poverty line. For those who need more than job training, the Center for Work Education and Employment provides instruction in life skills, builds relationships with potential employers, and helps participants deal with personal issues and obstacles.

Their continued 25-year commitment to the community is an inspiration. The Center helps thousands to turn their life around by breaking free of public assistance and becoming independent productive citizens. This work is vital

to the Denver area and is a model for caring citizens giving back to their community.

I applaud, and am grateful for, the work and dedication of the Center for Work Education and Employment on the 25th anniversary of their founding. They have enriched the Denver community and changed the lives of thousands and I look forward to another 25 years.

RECOGNIZING AND WELCOMING THE LEADERS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues in honoring the rich heritage and important contributions made to our Nation by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

I thank Congressman HONDA and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for organizing this evening's special order.

Born and raised in the diverse city of Los Angeles, California, I have been blessed with friendships and experiences that have given me a deep respect and appreciation of the unique cultures and customs of our AAPI communities.

That respect and appreciation has grown even greater as a member of Congress honored to represent many of these communities, including Little Tokyo, Chinatown, and historic Filipinotown.

The American dream for Asian American Pacific Islanders is the same as for all Americans: Freedom, justice, respect and the opportunity for a better life.

This year's commemoration theme—"Meeting the Challenges for Asian Pacific Americans in 2007"—unfortunately highlights the sad reality that, while generations of Asian American and Pacific Islanders have a long history of fighting to protect our country in time of war, contributing to the strength of our Nation's economy and enriching our lives with the beauty of their culture and customs, like too many other communities in our country, they continue to face the obstacles of discrimination and racism in pursuit of their American dream.

Eliminating these barriers and honoring the contributions of the AAPI communities is a top priority for me, my colleagues and our new Democratic majority.

We will continue to work to successfully: Pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill that is fair and just; eliminate health disparities by expanding health care coverage and removing linguistic and cultural barriers to quality care; honor our veterans by adequately funding veterans programs and restoring the benefits denied to so many veterans, including the thousands of Filipinos who bravely fought in the U.S. Military during World War II; Provide small business with the tools needed to encourage entrepreneurial innovation, which will help the AAPI and other vulnerable communities develop new business ventures that will create jobs and economic prosperity; and